

# **State Advisory Committee (SAC) For the Education of Children with Disabilities**

**Advising the NH Department of Education per RSA 186-C:3-b**

**NHDOE, Room 15**

**4:30pm – 7:00pm**

**January 6, 2016**

## **Meeting Minutes**

### **Attended: SAC Members**

Maureen Tracey (Chair), Bonnie Dunham (co-chair), Mike Pinard, Kestrel Cole-McCrea, Candace Cole-McCrea, Karen Rosenberg, Violetta Lortie, Lisa Beaudion, Sue Marcotte-Jenkins, Heidi Cloutier, Jean Parsons, Donna Curtin, Jack Curtin, Patrick Curtin, Maureen Shields, Lisa Hatz, Lynda Thistle-Elliott

### **Guest(s):**

Santina Thibedeau, Administrator, Bureau of Special Education

Welcome, Introductions of SAC Members & Guests

- Maureen began the meeting at approximately 4:34pm
- All attendees introduced themselves and stated their role

### **Nominations:**

There were no new nominations this month. There were a few people Maureen has invited and they hope to attend the next meeting. Heidi's nomination letter says she is the representative from an IHE. She will need a new nomination as a parent of student with a disability after the new IHE representative is nominated which may be at the February meeting.

### **Approval of Minutes**

*(Vote was delayed till about 5:30pm when there was enough members to have a quorum to approve the minutes)*

- Approval of November 4, 2015 Meeting Minutes
  - Discussion
    - There was discussion that the correct term used should be house of corrections not jail.
    - Donna Curtin's last name was misspelled Curtian.
    - Violetta Lortie's last name was misspelled Lotrie.
    - The line "(Houses of Correction hold pre-trial and misdemeanors up to 45 days, Jails house felons up to three years) will be removed as it is inaccurate.
  - Bonnie Dunham made a motion to approve minutes with changes. Heidi Cloutier seconded. 18 approved 2 abstentions Motion passed.

## Public Comment & Announcements

Lisa Beaudion:

- Date change and reminder about ABLE NH: Blazing New Frontiers: "Soaring Toward the Stars" 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Sustaining Members Event, on January 29, 2016 at the McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center:
  - Dan Habib will premier his new film, working title "Intelligent Lives"
  - Visit <http://ablenh.org/> to register.

Bonnie Dunham:

- The Parent Information Center is still accepting applications for the volunteer advocate training. The training will be in the southern part of the State.
- For more information visit: <http://nhspeciald.org/workshops-training/volunteer-advocate-training/>

Maureen Tracey:

- There is a conference for Prader-Willi Syndrome that will be happening on October, 1 2016 in Burlington MA. They are looking for proposals for speakers.

No public comment

**Legislative Updates** Bonnie reviewed her Legislative Updates with SAC members. Many bills retained from last session will be voted on January 16, 2016. There are also a few new bills that Bonnie noted.

- SB 316, Relative to relative to placement decisions by a child's individualized education program team.
- SB 354, requiring the commissioner and deputy commissioner of the department of education to be confirmed by a joint session of the general court.
- SB 355, requiring the members of the state board of education to be elected by a joint session of the general court.
- SB 439, establishing a commission to study the shortage of nurses for pediatric home health services.
- HB 1145, establishing a committee to study suspensions and expulsions in licensed preschools and in kindergarten through grade 3.
- HB 1338, Relative to student exemption from the statewide assessment.
- HB 1351, Relative to the laws governing chartered public schools.
- HB 1372, permitting a child with a disability to use audio or video recording devices in the classroom. [Amends RSA 189:68, IV to read: "No school shall record in any way a school classroom for [any] the purpose of teacher evaluations without school board approval after a public hearing, and without written consent of the teacher and the parent or legal guardian of each affected student.
- HB 1442-FN, Relative to objections to proposed agency rules under the administrative procedure act.
- HB 1484, Relative to the election of members of the state board of education.
- HB 1485, Relative to private rights of action under the pupil safety and violence prevention act.
- HB 1612-FN Relative to the age for purposes of compulsory education [lowers the compulsory education age to 16]
- HB 1644-FN Relative to screening and treatment for dyslexia and related disorders and establishing a reading specialist in the [DOE]
- HB 1667-FN-L, repealing the statutes authorizing the department of education.

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## Lisa Beaudion Presentation on Inclusion and dialogue

Lisa presented a shorted form of an inclusion presentation she has created. She offered to present the larger presentation for any school or group.

#### "Inclusion Matters"

- Maslow's hierarchy of needs: a sense of belonging comes before learning can happen.
- How ableism can affect a student's sense of belonging.
- Presuming competence and the least dangerous assumptions.
- How paraprofessional can block a student from being able to interact with peers socially.
- That most if not all students can be fully included if the right supports are put into place.
- When students are excluded they often miss out on important part of the general education
- Discussion
  - Maureen would like to know more if districts have inclusion policies.
  - Jean Parsons feels NH does a good job with inclusion compared with other states. IDEA requires a spectrum of placements be made available depending on students need. Sometimes students benefit from social time with students with similar disabilities as them.
  - Karen stated that there has been a lot of change. When she was in school students with disabilities were kept at a different building with limited interaction with other students.
  - Bonnie said with her son they always started with asking the question what supports would need to be in place for him to be included in general education.
  - There was discussion how pullouts may need needed for some students depending on the needed specialized instruction.
  - How does inclusion work for the students with complex behavior challenges?

#### **Old Business: Follow up on Discussion on meeting with Commissioner Barry**

- On June 22, 2015 Bonnie Dunham, Jean Parsons, Maureen Tracey and Karen Rosenberg met with Commissioner Barry. (This topic was tabled last meeting)
  1. NHDOE convene a stakeholder group to assist with securing temporary professional staff when personnel challenges are impeding a district's ability to delivery related services.
    - Next Steps: the first steps are to work to create a list of potential stakeholders.
    - Jean will also bring this issue to NHASEA to find potential stakeholders to include.
  2. In addressing personnel shortages the NHDOE take steps to help bridge the gap by reaching out teacher training programs, school guidance counselors.
    - SAC will work with the NHDOE to convene a stakeholder group to discuss and develop strategies to address recruiting and obtaining and retaining special education personnel where there is currently shortages.
    - Do school councilors still have their conference? Lisa Hatz will find out if they do.
    - Santina asked if the work of the CEEDAR grant will assist in this area.
    - Heidi and Candace are interested in the stakeholder group.
  3. That NHDOE convene a stakeholder group to address issues related to implementing IEP Services.
    - On October 20, 2015 the Commissioner issued a FY16 Memo #12 on this topic.
    - Karen asked if there was a written policy response to what is a systemic issue.
    - Santina responded that this is no additional policy because the Bureau follows the administrative rules. They would have entered rule making on this issue to get something additional on this issue.

4. To show support of a goal that all NH schools implement with fidelity multi-tiered systems of support.
  - The Commissioner recommends that an award be developed to encourage schools to reach this benchmark.
  - Karen believed this would involve a lot of time and take away from a lot of the work of the committee.
  - Bonnie was wondering if a category could be added for the Parent Involvement Awards that PIC does in October.

#### **Additional Old Business:**

Candace reported back with her discussion with the Strafford County House of Correction. She provided them the questions that were developed and shared the responses. A copy of the responses will be sent to the members of SAC.

- Maureen thought it was nice to have a test run of the questions.
- Violetta said it would be interesting to know what courses they are offering.
- Santina shared there is no legislation that the houses of correction provide a high school diploma.
- Karen – the LEA is responsible for providing special education.
- Candace thought would be a good idea for SAC to visit a House of Correction.
- Santina was concerned about safety and didn't feel it was a good use of SAC's time considering all the other work needed to be done.
- Maureen it would be good to get more details on what the States does with this issue.
- Santina – I would need a good hour to go over the topic. She is willing to do this instead of her Bureau update time. She was asked if she make it 50 minutes and she responded yes.
- Lynda Thistle-Elliott would like 5 minutes to go over Title I Part D.

#### **SAC Training Update**

Santina, Maureen and Bonnie spoke with John Copenhagen about providing training to SAC. They have experience with providing training to other State's advisory committees. Maureen was excited about this opportunity. He has done similar thing in 18 States. They were thinking SAC would have something in the late spring and then have follow up training for the SAC retreat in September. There is also quarterly webinar available also.

Bonnie made a motion for SAC to have the discussed training and a follow up at the retreat; at a time that meets the needs of members after a survey monkey is done. Karen Seconded. Motion Passed.

DOE will survey the members to find the best date.

#### **Update from the Bureau of Special Education ~ Santina**

- Lisa Morrisette has been hired to fill the role Ralph Tilton was in. Lisa's position for CAT AID hasn't been posted yet.
- Rulemaking has been entered and they took into consideration all public comment when deciding on the changes.
  - There was a request to change the rate setting recommendation to assist in cost containment. Santina decided to have a stakeholder group on this issue on the 15<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> of January.
- Nancy Wells the new School Nurse has started which is happening at a good time considering all the new school nurse legislation.

#### **New Business, Emerging Issues, Announcements, Current Events, Public Comment**

- Heidi shared that there was a lot of interest in the Children's Behavioral Health Collaborative and SAC members should have received the information.
- Heidi also shared the website MY TURN that helps at risk students graduate.

At 7:05pm Bonnie made a motion to adjourn, Karen seconded. All in agreement. Motion passes.

Next meeting ~ Wednesday, February 3, 2016, 4:30pm-7:00pm ~ NHDOE, Room 15